

**WATCHUNG  
BOARD OF HEALTH  
MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 15, 2012**

**CALL TO ORDER-**

**President's Statement-**

Under the provisions of N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq., notice of the time and place of this meeting has been posted and sent to the official newspapers.

**ROLL CALL-**

Robert Riedinger (P), Stephen Black, Council Liaison (A); Harriet Stambaugh (P); Fran Ellis (P); George Pogosky (A); Bruce Ruck (P); Ronald Jubin (P); Peter Savulich (P), Louise Lindenmeier (P); Lynn Franklin (P)

Also in attendance was Middlebrook Representative-Kevin Sumner, Health Officer

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 18, 2012 MEETING**

Bruce Ruck made a motion to approve the minutes of January 18, 2012 with a second by Ronald Jubin. All Members approved.

**Report of Vital Statistics for :**

**JANUARY**

Births - 1 Male-	Female- 1
Deaths – 2 Male-	Female- 1
Marriages-	0
Domestic Partnerships –	0
Civil Unions -	0

**HEALTH OFFICERS REPORTS FOR - January (Kevin Sumner)**

There has been no meeting yet. The re-organization meeting is scheduled for February 27, 2012, 7 PM in Green Brook.

-Bruce questioned the report for January 3<sup>rd</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> reporting probable Pertussis. Where these children inoculated? Kevin said these were not confirmed but had to be reported. All members thought we should know if they were vaccinated because this could be a problem if they were not. Ron also stated he would want to know if this were the case also.

-Bruce also questioned the Bed Bug complaint for Unique Thrift. Robyn was contacted by the Assistant Manager who said they are under contract with Terminex. She gave the customer who complained the store manager's number. Bruce wanted to know why someone did not actually go in to inspect the store. Kevin said we do not have the authority to inspect. It is The Department of Community Affairs – and right now they do not inspect because it is such a huge problem. There are several bills in the legislature to address this problem. Bruce felt we should make a report to The Department of Community Affairs because if we don't we could be just as responsible as the Dept. of Community Affairs if we do not make them aware of the situation and we, as the local Board of Health should have some type of authority. Kevin said bed bugs are not a health issue because they do not transmit disease. Kevin said his health inspectors don't even have training on identifying bed bugs They do not have an expert or jurisdiction for this.

Bob asked if we could suggest to the Laws and Ordinance Committee to pass something to allow us to do something about this. Kevin wanted to know what we would do with that. Bruce said we could shut them down or quarantine the store until the situation is remedied. Kevin said the costs are exorbitant to treat these bugs and Middle Brook Health does not have the training or the finances. Kevin did state this report was not confirmed.

Bruce asked if a store/business has to be registered to operate in our town. Kevin said other than the normal building/zoning/fire inspections they do not. If they are a food establishment they are inspected at least annually and if there is a complaint they are also inspected. Businesses are registered through the County and/or the State.

Harriet questioned what types of Bills were in the Legislature at this time. Kevin said there were a few of them basically assigning responsibility to certain agencies to do inspections on transfer of properties; rented or leased apartment inspections; oversight of exterminations.. Another is if there is an issue found, forcing the owner of a rental property to fix. There is nothing for a commercial property or single family homes. It was suggested by Bob that we send a letter to Laws and Ordinance asking for their recommendations/opinions on how to follow up on this situation.

Bruce questioned the OEM-Shelter item on January 12<sup>th</sup> report. Kevin said the State wants to shift sheltering to the County. There was a meeting but Kevin was not invited – He spoke to the County Health Representative and was informed this was a directive from the State and that nothing has happened yet and they will keep him posted. Kevin said we have not been involved in sheltering in Watchung but OEM does have a plan in place utilizing the schools. Bruce said this was a problem with the October storm because the schools did not have electricity either.

There was a question on the Pit Bull killing a cat in West Orange. Why was our Board of Health contacted. Kevin explained that the dog was from Watchung visiting someone in West Orange. Both animals were tested for rabies and both were negative. The dog does not have to be quarantined – only if it bites a human or has been exposed to wildlife.

## **REPORT OF REPRESENTATIVE TO MIDDLE BROOK**

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS- Sewer Connections**

There was discussion on possible exclusions/exemptions etc. Members made some suggestions:

- Time to hook-up could be increased
- Could decrease the footage for hook-up requirement
- Could allow for a working system with fees and requirement to have septic system inspected with a continuing time frame. (yearly, every 3 years, etc).
- Variance for exemption if required to Blast, pump – could be included in the Ordinance with very strict requirements.
- Deferrals – if can prove financial hardship.

Bob asked the Board how they would like to see this go forward. Do they want to keep it as is or grant some types of variances or exemptions. Most members present said yes to variances and possible exemptions. We should look at Warrens' ordinance as a sample and modify it to what the Board would like in our town.

Kevin will draft something up for our next meeting for further discussion.

**NEW BUSINESS-**

Request for a Waiver for Food License fee for LeShack (Little League).

Fran Ellis moved to approve the waiver and seconded by Peter Savulich

All members in attendance voted to approve contingent on the Health Inspection.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

**MIDDLEBROOK:**

Correspondence and items for discussion

**VOUCHERS SUBMITTED FOR PAYMENT-**

Middlebrook Health Commission – 1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter	-	\$20,917.50
Plainfield Area Humane Society - 1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter	-	\$ 3,500.00

Louise Lindenmeier moved to approve payment of vouchers with a second by Fran Ellis

President Riedinger requested a roll call:

Ellis, Franklin, Jubin, Lindenmeier, Ruck, Savulich, Stambaugh and Riedinger

All members in attendance approved payment

**PUBLIC PORTION:** No public in attendance

**ADJOURNMENT-**

Harriet Stambaugh made a motion to adjourn with a second by Louise Lindenmeier. All members were in favor.

The next scheduled meeting will be held on April 18, 2012 at 7:00 PM at Borough Hall,  
15 Mountain Blvd., Watchung, NJ 07069

Respectfully submitted,

*MaryAnn Hance*  
Secretary